



HOME ASPECTS AND RELATIONSHIPS OF FARM
AND HOME PLANNING*

Farm and home planning in its broadest sense has always been a part of Extension Service work since the Smith-Lever Act was passed "in order to aid in diffusing practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics."

Looking backward and painting a picture with broad, sweeping statements, the changing emphasis as to objectives and methods of home phases of farm and home planning might be given in 10-year periods as follows:

- 1914 -24 During this decade the objective was to help girls and women add to the family income by teaching them better production and conservation practices based on research. The teaching techniques were centered on method and result demonstrations.
- 1924 -34 There was a growing realization that home demonstration programs included "consumption" --family economic problems as well as those of production and conservation. Work on home accounts was started. Research helped by adding to our fund of knowledge and our information on how much money was needed to maintain an adequate level of living. Teaching techniques were largely concerned with skills and practices.
- 1934 -44 During this decade there was growth in the "family approach." The development of "Farm and Home Economic Conferences" brought husbands and wives together to discuss how to improve their level of living by studying family living and farm production costs and farm net income. Rural resettlement programs, based on the development of farm and home plans to obtain a Government loan, gave added impetus to this approach. Similar Extension Service result demonstrations were called "whole demonstrations."

*Paper given by Mary Rokahr, In Charge, Home Economics Section, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington 25, D.C., at Southern Regional Conference, Farm and Home Planning, Biloxi, Mississippi, May 26 - 31, 1952.

1944 -54

During this period Extension's objectives have changed from teaching practices to helping people "think." Much greater attention is given to the use of human resources. Management is more clearly defined and teaching techniques have been developed to stimulate people to improve their managerial abilities, using planning as the first step. The focus continues on the family approach, all family members participating in the planning, execution of the plan, and evaluation of results. Home phases clearly shift from earlier work on gathering and using facts (accounts) to help in buymanship as well as in planning.

1954 -64

During the coming decade, as this conference discussion indicates, we will turn further attention on putting plans into action and their evaluation. The family approach and human relationships that aid in bringing plans to successful conclusions will continue to receive our careful study, and the part community and cooperative services play will come increasingly to the fore.

Objectives of Farm and Home Planning

A family's goals, as stated by the Peddicord family, of Illinois, give Extension workers a broad base upon which to evaluate home aspects.

"Healthy and happy children: They must be taught to:

- a. Enjoy life, but not to live for themselves.
- b. Be good citizens, able to adjust themselves happily to situations, take defeat gracefully, strive for their goals, and
- c. Lead Christian lives--be a credit to themselves and to us.
- d. They should obtain an education, college if possible, but seek one wherever they can."

"Security for ourselves and family: We are planning for farm ownership, increasing net worth, a balanced insurance program, and some investments in stocks and bonds."

"A comfortable farm home: This involves remodeling, requiring architectural changes--a long-time project. Bonds are being purchased for the

purpose of a planned home, for the children and the family. The guest room has been eliminated to provide greater everyday living convenience."

Extension's objectives have been stated in the Kentucky Farm and Home Development workbook as follows:

"Dean Frank J. Welch wishes to extend greetings to the farm and home development demonstrators. He wishes to welcome these farm families into the partnership with the College of Agriculture and Home Economics of the University of Kentucky in helping all farm families of the State to reach the following goals of the farm and home development program:

"Full use of all of the resources of ability, land, labor, and capital to obtain maximum income."

"Use of high-producing livestock for utilization of hay and pastures."

"Maintenance of a high standard of living and culture in farm homes."

"Education and training of our citizens, both old and young, for highest service to agriculture and home economics of our State."

Why Farm and Home Planning?

Lydia Lynde, our Federal parent and family life education specialist, describes the human relationship values that are achieved when farm and home planning are joint activities.

Entire Family: When farm and home planning are combined and the whole family participates, individuals learn to recognize the needs of others and draw their own goals in line with these and the anticipated income. Competition within the family is reduced. By all planning together, family partnership is developed--husband-wife, parent-children--with the land; all are interested then in production and soil conservation as well as income. All work willingly to achieve the goals they set together, both immediate and long-time, and are happy over small progress. A well-moving enterprise becomes more satisfying than income.

Father-son: Young people have a great urge for experimentation. They want to try new ideas. Planning with the whole family for both home and farm helps them to weigh the possibilities of their ideas and accept some of the limitations of Dad's so-called "conservatism."

Unmarried daughter: Farm and home planning should include some money-making self-controlled project, such as poultry or small fruits, for the out-of-school daughter who is living at home. The lack of such independence sends young women into town seeking employment. Many would prefer remaining on the farm and participating in their own local community life.

In-laws: When a son-in-law or daughter-in-law is involved, farm and home planning may have to consider two families with diversified needs and desires. If father-son-in-law farming is the problem, the son-in-law's ideas are important. Without this recognition he is merely working for his father-in-law. Sometimes the "best" farm plan must be modified to meet individual interests and special family needs. If the special talents of the family members are used, "hands are willing and hearts are happy." We farm for family happiness as well as production and income.

Straws in the Wind:

Children and Money: The changing attitude of people toward money is illustrated by the Gallup poll, September 1951, regarding allowances for children:

"Did you get a spending allowance from your parents when you were a child?"

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes.	27
No	73

"Do you think a child, say, 12 years old, should get an allowance?"

	<u>Percent</u>
Should get allowance.	85
Should not.	12
Undecided	3

Those who voted in the affirmative were asked:

"In general, about how much allowance do you think a 12-year old child should get a week?"

The amounts ranged as follows:

	<u>Percent</u>
\$.25 or less.	6
.50.	20
.75.	5
1.00.	28
1.50 and over	23
Undecided	5

Joint Planning:

The University of Michigan department of home management reports on a study with 1,338 couples on Managerial Practices in the Homes of Married Students at Michigan State College*¹as follows:

"In their use of money over five-sixths of the student couples used financial plans. These were most likely to be partial and to have been made jointly by the husband and wife. Nearly four-fifths of the couples kept records of past expenditures. Couples who made plans were more likely to keep records than those who made no spending plans. Nearly all of the couples had made financial plans for the future. The plans usually reported were for home ownership and for having a family."

"When the student couples were compared with the Michigan homemakers studied in 1939-41, certain very significant differences appeared. In comparing their use of money it was found that the financial plans were used by less than one-fourth of the Michigan homemakers as compared with over five-sixths of the students. The Michigan homemakers also reported fewer complete plans and less joint planning."

State Vocational Agriculture Teachers Conference: "Great minds run in the same channel," if we use as indication an article that has just appeared in a Gulfport, Miss. paper, where 350 teachers and instructors of veterans' on-farm training are meeting for the same purposes as we are. The first sentence reads as follows:

"The real problem of the farm family is to make the most effective use of their available resources to achieve their family objectives," said Dr. James M. Wallace, manager of the Iowa State College agricultural foundation at Ames, Iowa, Tuesday afternoon, at the opening session of the State vocational agriculture teachers' conference."

Values of Farm and Home Planning Studied*²

Preliminary findings from a study on Evaluation of the Kentucky Farm and Home Development Program, 1951, indicate some of its values as follows:

"The cooperating families liked the program. In particular they liked the definite information, the inspiration it gave for higher standards, the bringing together of family members

*¹ Source, Michigan State Experiment Station Quarterly Bulletin, Vol.32, No. 3, pp285-306, Feb.1950. By Alice Thorpe and Irma H. Gross.

*² Extension Division, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Kentucky.

in one program, the association with other families, and the learning of unnoticed things.

"The chief suggestion made for improvement was the continuation of group meetings and farm and home tours as a part of the program to keep up interest after the six planning meetings."

Home Aspects Have Motivating Power

"The development of home-planning aspects contributes reality to goals and values," Dr. Gertrude Weiss, of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, points out. "A farm plan that emphasizes the gains in family living which it makes possible, is far more likely to be followed by the whole family than one that emphasizes business gains alone. Home aspects are a strong motivating force."

Goals as Means of Determining Use of Resources

The Washington Society for the Advancement of Management conducted a round table for husbands and wives in 1952 on Scientific Management Applied to the Home. At the end of six meetings that husbands and wives themselves helped plan, they said the greatest value was a realization of the importance of goals as a means of determining use of resources both material and human. Coming together as husbands and wives, they also said, was invaluable.

Relationships

Whether planning together (men and women) is good, may be judged in part by answering the question, "Do we use this approach in our own home?" As extension workers we are demonstrating, at this conference, joint planning. These ideas on joint planning we hope farm families will find useful. Do we find such joint planning good?

To discuss relationships in farm and home planning between farm and home management specialists with any sense of assurance, one must have had recent actual experience in developing such relationships with farm families.

When we are in doubt on matters which we should take up together with husbands and wives and when such matters should be discussed separately, it will be wise to ask the family. Their point of view should prevail.

We might aptly paraphrase at this point the saying, "Take your troubles to the Lord in prayer." Take your troubles to the family to be solved.

Interview on Relationships

Madonna Fitzgerald, home management specialist, has consented to be interviewed on Home Aspects and Relationships of Farm and Home Planning, since she has had considerable experience with this program in Missouri.

The following questions were used in the interview:

- (1) In Missouri what do you consider home aspects?
- (2) What are home aspects of farm and home planning in which farm families display greatest interest?
- (3) Do you know the Clarence Bergmans, of Lafayette County, Missouri? Are their views regarding the values of farm and home planning common among other families?

"The thing about our balanced farming plan that gives us the most satisfaction," state Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bergman, "is the satisfaction that we think we are on the right track and are working together on all of it."

- (4) How did you develop the home aspects in Missouri?
- (5) You have a definite plan for training agents. How did you arrive at it? What do you do?
- (6) Do you have any State-wide committees concerned with balanced farming work in Missouri?

Discussion Period

Using the Phillipps 66, buzz session technique, the group was asked to suggest two or three questions they would like to discuss. The questions were:

- (1) How to develop a working relationship with the lower income group.
- (2) What is the responsibility of extension agents in aiding farm families establish goals?
- (3) How many families in a Missouri county are in a balanced farming ring? How are families serviced? How does a home demonstration agent handle this additional load? How do you appraise the progress in a county? (Questions directed to Madonna Fitzgerald of Missouri.)
- (4) Should goals and putting goals into action be separated?
- (5) How can the youth program be fitted into farm and home planning?

Discussion centered on questions 1 and 2.

FAMILY ASPECTS OF FARM AND HOME PLANNING IN MISSOURI*

The ultimate goal of farm and home planning is to provide and maintain the most healthful and comfortable living for the farm family, based of course, on the income production capacity of the farm.

The farm and home are so closely related, so interdependent, it is impossible to plan adequately for one without considering the needs of the other. The needs of both must be met from the same money income and the same source of human energy.

From the farm standpoint, it means higher production, increased income and other assets, such as time, energy, and skill, to provide best for the family's health and welfare.

To insure a good balance between the many demands on the family income, it is essential to set up goals. These may be defined as objectives or ends toward which the family is working. Every individual in the family has immediate and long-time goals toward which they are directing their efforts. It is particularly desirable that all responsible members of the family be familiar with these goals and cooperative in attempting to reach them.

Competition between items of expenditure have to be considered and weighed in order that each have its proper place. More careful use of all resources may even reduce cash expenditures. For example, a better food production and conservation program will mean extending the cash which normally would have to be spent for purchased food, to items for which only cash can be used, such as new equipment and electric service.

The most practical family living plan is a long-time plan. It considers home and family needs over a period of several years, selecting for immediate attention those expenditures and improvements which will mean the most to the family. It really will set up a priority of purchases which will insure more satisfactory buying.

An over-all plan makes it possible to see the whole picture over a period of years, so that the items needed for increasing the income, for building up the land, for buying better livestock, and other investments of that type, might be put into effect as soon as possible, to provide the funds for other items of expenditure. After the over-all plan has been made, the actual carrying out may be started with only a few phases, depending on the interest and needs of the family, as the family sees its needs.

*Summary of statements made by Madonna Fitzgerald, extension economist, home management, Columbia, Missouri, in interview on Home Aspects and Relationships of Farm and Home Planning, at Southern Regional Conference on Farm and Home Planning, May 26 - 31, 1952.

One or more of the following problems may be selected as a starting point in putting a family living plan into operation.

(1) The home food supply--purchased and produced; (2) the family clothing needs; (3) kitchen improvement--starting perhaps with installation of water, rearrangement, and remodeling; (4) improved storage; (5) purchase of labor-saving equipment; (6) home or farmstead remodeling. Home records play an important part in supplying a basis for proceeding from one improvement to the other.

A good family living plan provides for home improvement that will conserve the health of the family; reduce time and energy spent in the routine tasks; and provide more comfortable living. An expenditure for home convenience that conserves energy, such as running water, may return dividends equal to those from a similar investment made on farm lands and livestock. Home conveniences and labor-saving equipment release the time and energy of the homemaker to carry on additional activities that improve the money income of the family or family welfare.

A good plan provides for progressive improvement; it is flexible enough to admit changes as conditions require. It should suggest and guide, but not be so fixed that its usefulness is limited. Its success to a large degree, is dependent on the effort and cooperation of all responsible family members.

